Firm figures for the current financial year are not available. However, provisional' estimates of the Gem & Jewellery Export Promotion Council indicate that during the period April—June, 1992 exports were Rs. 1691.44 crores as compared to Rs. 1215.05 crores during the same period last year. This marks an increase of 39.20% in rupee terms rind 19.42% in USA dollar terms.

(d) The export of diamonds and other jewellery items is not accounted for on State to State basis.

(e) The new Export Import Policy implemented from 1st of April, *19)2* has simplified the procedures for the import *c,{* raw materials and export of diamonds and jewellery. Special Schemes facilitating the duty free import of raw materials have been made available to exporters. Alongwith the State Bank of India, the Minerals and Metal Trading Corporation has been nominated for the duty free import of gold to meet the gold import requirement of exporters in the Domestic Tariff Area. A provision has also been made for the import of capital goods at concessional rates of customs duty to facilitate technological upgradation. Ex porters are also assisted for participation in joint exhibitions and for sending delegations for market surveys in foreign markets

Export of flowers

3680. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 2.721 given in the Rajya Sabha on 4th August, 1992 and stute:

(a) the quantum of flower exported during 1991 and 1992 as on date; and

(b) if so, the names of those countries and the manner in which Government propose to meet their demand of flowers?

THE. DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) and (b) The statistics on export of flowers are maintained is terms of value. The latest available figures of export of floriculture products during the last two years are given below:

Year	Value (Rs. in lakhs)
1990-91	786.67
1991-92	1316.00

The major importers of floriculture product from India are UK, USA, Germany, Netherlands, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia etc. To meet the demand of flowera from these countries, Government has taken various steps such as market development. simplification of procedures, infrastructural support etc.

बड़े डिजिटल स्विचिंग इक्वपमेंट्स के लिए निविदाएं

3681. डा० अबरार अहमद : क्या संचार मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) दूरसंचार विभाग ने दो लाख बड़े डिजिटल स्विचिंग इक्वपमेंट्स खरीदने के लिए निविदाएं आमंत्रित की थीं, और यदि हां, तो इसका ब्यौरा क्या है तथा इस संबंध में कितनी और किन-किन कम्पनियों ने निविदाएं भेजी थी और उन्होंने निविदाओं में क्या-क्या दरें भरी थीं या इनमें से किस कंपनी की दर सबसे कम थी और किन-किन कंपनियों की निविदाओं को पहली बोली में ठीक पाया गया ;

(ख) क्या मूल्य के संबंध में उनके मंत्रालय ने कोई बातचीत की थी, और यदि हां तो उन कंपनियों के क्या-क्या नाम हैं और क्या उनके मंत्रालय ने कुछ कंपनियों को पेशकश की है यदि हां, तो उसका आधार क्या है ; और

(ग) क्या उन्हें किसी कंपनी से उनकी निविदा के संबंध में कोई अभ्यावेदन मिला है और यदि हां तो उसका ब्यौरा क्या है और क्या इस निविदा के लिए आदेश देते समय उनके मंत्रालय द्वारा कुछ नियमों की अनदेखी की जा रही है ?